

305 East 10th St.,
New York 9, NY

March 21, 1964.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil Ave.,
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Let me introduce myself by reminding you of a manuscript sent you thru the good offices of John Ford, by one William West Bradbeer, on Colonial and Continental Currency. I was the person instrumental in obtaining this never-published document from his son Myron C. Bradbyer. I am a collector -- mainly interested in encased postage and in colonial paper. Needless to say your researches has been invaluable to me, as to the entire numismatic brotherhood and I regard you as the dean (if this term does not impart upon you an undesired beard) of scholars in the field.

My motivation for promoting the publication of the B manuscript were entirely scholarly, since I had no financial interest whatever, merely felt that this much-neglected area needed a book where none existed. I thought that Jack Friedberg, the successor to his brother at the Coin & Currency Institute, was in accord with me on the historical (if not scholarly) import of the Bradbeer manuscript and until recently hoped Friedberg would publish it. For reasons best known to him and his attorney, Friedberg has now declined to bring the book into print - matters having to do with doubt in his attorney's mind that the son of Bradbeer owns the ms. free and clear. All entirely within his province and I have no quarrel with his legalisms.

Meanwhile the ms. remains in the son's possession and -- as you so well know, the field is "serviced" by the Wayne-Raymond catalog. I write to inquire what, if anything, you might suggest. Perhaps the matter is best left dropped and, together with other students and collectors, I shall await the proposed publication of Bressart or your own definitive work. Have you any thoughts on the matter? They would be appreciated.

One small technical and historical question. Recently I came upon a blue, or specimen note of the Sept 26, 1778 issue, in the #5 denomination which is signed (Gamble & Snowden) and numbered. I had never seen one before and it intrigued me. I had read that none of these notes was signed and wondered therefore what it was. The price placed upon it by its owner is \$125, which I felt was excessive unless it is a rarity of importance. Can you give me any enlightenment? (By way of further background on myself I should tell you I own a complete type collection of Continental currency, together with some 20 odd specimen notes - so I am not

Mr. Eric Mayman, Mar 21, 1944.

entirely a novice in the field. Indeed I have been following your articles on Native Printing with great interest and increasing respect for a true scholar and innovator. I also own a fairly representative collection of colonial paper, some 500 pieces in all.)

Any answers you may care to give to these two questions would be appreciated. I deeply envy you the time you seem to have at your disposal to delve into this delightful area. For myself what free time I have I use to dig into encased postage and am in the process of preparing a monograph on the subject. If you have done any research into this little-known field there too I would be in your debt for any information.

Finally let me hope that you continue your unique and fine work in a field that has, sadly, become overrun with roll, bag and nonsense ~~no longer has any amassers.~~

Fraternally,

Arnold Perl

MPA

EPW

March 24, 1964

Mr. Arnold Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York 9, New York

Dear Mr. Perl:

Your very nice letter is most appreciated and I am a little embarrassed about what you say concerning the writings and research which I do. It is endlessly enjoyable to me and I do it in addition to my full time work in business.

When the Bradbeer manuscript was submitted to me for my opinion, I wanted to be straightforward and honest in giving my opinion. I found that Bradbeer had done a lot of work on the statutes but was not familiar with the Colonial paper money collections of the country, or the bills themselves, or much of the literature relating to the subject. In other words, I do not believe his work was complete enough to satisfy himself. I also found an enormous number of mistakes in the manuscript in the few areas which I checked carefully. I also found that he guessed at denominations by interpolation and extrapolation, creating a listing of some notes which never existed. He did this in a few situations in his Confederate listing. I therefore concluded that there were too many negatives for this manuscript to be published without complete restudy. I certainly hope I did not hurt any one's feelings but there is nothing worse than publishing something which is incomplete and inaccurate.

There is no doubt that a new catalogue is needed and I am considering this matter, personally, as to how to do it in the most satisfactory way. Many people say they are working on such a catalogue but when the matter is finally brought to light one finds that the work is not being done. I am being tempted more and more to do something about the matter and divert other research for the present.

You have requested information concerning a signed and numbered test note of September 26, 1778. I have seen notes

-2-

Mr. Arnold Perl

March 24, 1964

on blue paper which were signed and numbered but they were always crisp - which indicated that they did not circulate - and the chances of them being signature forgeries were very high. Blue notes were not to be circulated and the temptation to sign and number a blue note to create a rarity is substantial and very easy to accomplish.

You seem to have a fine collection of Colonial paper money and there is no reason for you to buy an item which will always be questionable, which is ruined as a test note, if it is bad, and which had no purpose if it was good.

With respect to your encased postage currency, there is so much written on the subject that can be of help to you that I hesitate to know where to begin. Have you checked the ANS index? The AJN index? The index of The Numismatist? The Coin Collectors Journal, old and new? The Philatelic publications? etc. I remember an interesting article on the strip of three stamps in a case and will try to locate it for you if you do not have it. I presume you have the Patent Office data.

Thank you for writing me and don't hesitate to do so at any time in the future when you think I can be of help.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Arnold Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York, N.Y. 10009

1966
Jan. 6, 1965.

Dear Eric Newman:

I wonder if I can intrude on your busy life for a request? (You may recall some previous correspondence with me re colonial paper money.)

A friend, a very important American engraver and wood-cut artist, is interested in nature printing. I have been trying (unsuccessfully) to obtain a copy of your splendid article on the subject for him. I do not want to send him my issues of the magazine in which it first appeared, and I have heard that it has been issued as a pamphlet. I need two copies, one for him and the other for myself. Please be good enough to bill me for same.

My friend (Leonard Backin by name, and represented in almost every major US museum) also wants to obtain a fine specimen of nature printing on continental paper. Ideally I would like to send him the \$20 long bill, but have not been able to unearth a specimen. (I am one but am loathe to part with it.) If, therefore, you can dig one up we shall both be grateful. I can, of course, get him a less rare note embodying nature printing, but he was intrigued by my description of the Franklin (?) device to prevent counterfeiting on the edge of the \$20 note.

I keep hearing rumors of your progress with your massive work on continental and colonial paper money. How is it coming? When can we neophytes expect to see it in print? Dick Picker tells me you are well into it. In all events I wish you speed and success with it.

May I ask your judgment on another matter? I am writing what I hope will be an analytic piece on encased postage stamps, correcting errors of past researchers, and (in going back to the sources, i.e. Civil War publications) finding some interesting new material. I finished a first section on this and mailed it off to the Numismatist, unaware of the situation regarding the Editor. Mr. Smedley was good enough to inform me of the sad facts, and tell me that he hoped, in time, the article would be published. While I feel the piece should be published in The Numismatist, I am loathe to have it hang fire indefinitely. What do you suggest? Please look upon this as a minor matter and do not put yourself out unduly, but if you have time and inclination to make a suggestion, I should be deeply appreciative.

Sincerely,

Arnold Perl

January 10, 1966

Mr. Arnold Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York, New York 10009

Dear Arnold:

Thank you for your interest and the interest of your friend, Leonard Baskin, in my article on nature printing. This seems to have caused more of a stir than any of the other articles I have written. I am enclosing two reprints, with my compliments. These are currently being sold by the A.N.A. but I think they won't object if I interfere with their sale to this extent.

As to Mr. Baskin acquiring a specimen showing nature printing, I would presume that you would have examples in the Continental Currency you retained from the Bradbeer collection. The \$20 long bill does not have a nature print. It merely has a polychromed edge which was already on the paper when Franklin furnished it. It was not Franklin's idea to use it to prevent counterfeiting.

I have many Colonial duplicates but do not sell anything but would, of course, exchange any note to benefit Mr. Baskin's desire.

My book on early American paper money is now being set. It is entirely written and I am pleasantly exhausted from it. I appreciate your wishes with respect to it and hope that it will fill a substantial need.

As to your article on encased postage stamps, I believe you should finish it in its entirety so that it will have more acceptance in The Numismatist. I definitely believe The Numismatist is where it belongs. Things will straighten out there, shortly, and I believe The Numismatist deserves the support of writers. I very much oppose other publications depriving it of writings by offering money for them. I think the prestige of The Numismatist must be maintained by quality writing and that no A.N.A. member should submit a writing to any other publication until The Numismatist has had its opportunity to publish it.

Page 2
Mr. Arnold Perl

January 10, 1966

If there is anything else I can do for you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

Arnold Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York, N.Y. 10009

1966

May 28.

Dear Eric:

Anyhow, (a) thank you very much for forwarding the reprints on your nature article, one of which I sent on to Baskin who loved it. Thank you (b) for your remarks on nature printing on actual currency, the which I have long since followed and sent Baskin a fine specimen from my small collection. So that is done.

I followed your advice a step further, waited out the Numismatist situation until the new editor got into the saddle, and this month (June) saw the publication of the piece I wanted were I wanted it. I'd be interested in your comments on it. John Ford, my East Coast coach, called to say he liked it, and now I think I've actually gotten John off his behind because he and I are going to do what I hope will be a definite check-list of the encasements. (I am pretty one-tracked; but figure my other area of interest, continental currency, is in very good hands, i.e. yours.)

What I want to do in encased is revise the whole list, throw out the guesswork items that have for years been included in all so-called "check lists", get into the nature of the companies that issued them, do some work into the memorabilia of the material, and draw up a sane listing according to companies that will put an end to the obsolete (and, pardon me, downright stupid) system of Friedberg on etased. John's approach seems to be don't publish until you can bring out the catalog raisonne; I'm less ambitious and plan to publish in installments, using care and research, until the sum of the story is published. Then, if useful, pull it all together in a small pamphlet. Right or wrong the trick seems to me to move ahead with research (and enjoy yourself). This latter I am doing.

Again, long overdue apologies; belated thanks and continued appreciation for your interest.

Best regards,

Arnold Perl

June 2, 1966

Mr. Arnold Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York, New York 10009

Dear Arnold:

I read with great interest your article on encased postage currency the moment it arrived and enjoyed it to the utmost. You got top position and I am glad that you waited.

In reading your article I was not convinced that the moment postage currency was issued by the government that the encased postage would have to drop out of circulation. Its advertising value would make businesses want to continue it in circulation and I don't see why the public would complain. I also believe that the wear shown on many of these pieces indicates that they were in circulation a much longer time than you assign. I would be interested in your comments on the above.

I am glad the Nature Printing article which we sent was of interest to your friend.

I certainly hope you are well again and that you can enjoy the pleasures of numismatics along with the rest of us.

You will be interested to know that my book on Colonial Paper Money is in galleyproof form. What a work out it has been and is, no one will ever know.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

June 3, 1966

Mr. Arnold Perl

Eric P. Newman

Dear Arnold:

The enclosed photocopies of advertising money might be of interest in your encased postage stamp articles in the future. I just happened, by accident, to trip over them in looking for something else in my collection.

Sincerely,

EPN/etb

David Perl
305 East 10th Street
New York, N.Y. 10009

June 6, 1966.

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your note on my article on encased postage. I appreciate your interest.

The advertising money fascinated me and, of course, made me want to try to get my hands on some. Do you have any duplicates or can you suggest a source? Ownership apart I shall want to use your notes, in reproduction, in connection with an article I am now doing on the firms using Gault's product. I am putting together the memorabilia (minutiae, whatever the term) of these companies: store cards, tokens, actual products, advertisements, and now can add "money". What, by the way was the status of this money? Was it pure advertising or a form of shinplaster? I find that I am ignorant in so many areas once having committed myself to one.

Your assumption that encased continued as part of the country's currency is, in my judgment, correct. Thos. Elder, you will recall, states that they continued to be circulated into the 70s. However, I don't think wear and tear alone indicates circulation. It surely proves existence and handling, but not necessarily circulation as currency. I am being especially careful and conservative because I received an appreciative letter from Arlie Slabaugh in which he questions whether the Russians did, in fact, issue encasements. On double-checking my sources I find that I erred: the Bolsheviks did use stamps as emergency money, but pasted on heavy cardboard, not encased. I plan to correct this and any other errors that turn up in a new piece I am working on.

Having gotten my feet wet in scholarship I find I like it. I shall, of course, go on.

I look forward eagerly to your Colonial Paper book. From the little research I have done in the area I have some idea of the labours involved. Bravo!

Paternally,



June 8, 1966

Mr. Arnold Perl

Eric P. Newman

Dear Arnold:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of June 6, 1966, I am enclosing the money-type advertisements of Joseph Bates and Drake's Plantation Bitters. Be sure this is the same Bates of encased postage fame.

I suggest you have these items photographed for your article and have the same returned to me promptly.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb